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INTERIM REPORT

ON THE STATE OF

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

OF THE

Horsham Urban District

BY THE

Medical Officer of Health,
KENNETH N. MAWSON
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

WEST SUSSEX NORTH-EASTERN COMBINED DISTRICT.

August, 1944.

Health Department,
Comewell House,
North Street,
Horsham.

To the Chairman and Members of the Horsham Urban District Council.

Mrs. Laughton and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the health of the District for the year 1943. For reasons with which the Council will now be familiar, the report is an abbreviated one. For reasons of national security, certain detailed information has been excluded in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but full statistics are available to any member of the Council who may require them.

I would draw your attention to the following points, as set out below:-

(1). Births and Deaths.

(a) There were 281 live births during the year. The figures for previous years were as follows:-

1938.....	198
1939.....	202
1940.....	208
1941.....	223
1942.....	254
1943.....	281

Owing to fluctuations in the figures for total population, the birth-rates give a more accurate picture.

The birth rates for these years are as follows:-

1938.....	13.31	per thousand.
1939.....	13.28	" "
1940.....	12.63	" "
1941.....	12.95	" "
1942.....	15.4	" "
1943.....	17.59	" "

The number of illegitimate births has tended to increase as shown:-

1938.....	12
1939.....	8
1940.....	7
1941.....	14
1942.....	22
1943.....	34

(b) The number of deaths during these years are shown below. The figures in brackets indicate the death rate.

1938.....	179	(12.03 per thousand).
1939.....	184	(11.60 " ").
1940.....	256	(15.47 " ").
1941.....	230	(13.36 " ").
1942.....	213	(12.9 " ").
1943.....	198	(12.64 " ").

(2). Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Reference to the table of notifications received, given in the body of the report, show that there was a rise in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases as compared with the previous year. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that 1942 was an exceptionally "good" year.

No cases of Diphtheria occurred. One notification was received, and the child removed to hospital, but the diagnosis was later found to be incorrect. Fifty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, as compared with six in 1942, and of these thirty-two were admitted to Swandean Hospital, the remainder being nursed at home. The disease was mild in character.

There was an outbreak of Measles, of mild type, 272 notifications being received.

(3). Diphtheria Immunization.

Full details of work in connection with the Immunization Campaign are given in the body of the report.

(4). Scabies, Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases.

Notes dealing with these matters will be found in the Report.

I have to acknowledge the helpful and conscientious work of all members of the Health Department, and the co-operation of the Chief Officers of the Council. I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, with whom my work is particularly concerned, for their support and consideration.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Urban Authority.

(a). Medical.

Kenneth N. Mawson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, part time with other districts in the Sanitary Combine, and, as Assistant County Medical Officer, School Medical Inspector for the area.

(b). Others.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

E. Partridge, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Certified Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute. Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:-

H. W. Simmonds, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., Certified Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Clerk:

C.H. Street, C.S.I.B., Certified Sanitary Inspector, Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board. (On Active Service).

(1). STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA, 1943.

Area (Acres).....	1,843.
Population at Census, 1931.....	13,550.
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1943) according to the Rate Books.....	4,600.
Rateable Value.....	£140,192
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£570

(2). SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Horsham is a prosperous market and industrial town situated in the Weald at a railway junction, and is the shopping and amusement centre for the surrounding populous rural district. There are a few local industries, and unemployment was negligible prior to the outbreak of war.

(3). EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births (Legitimate....	247	131	116	)Birth Rate
(Illegitimate..	34	16	18	)17.59 per
				)1,000
				)estimated
				)R.P. in mid-
				)1943.
Still Births.....	6	6	0	)Rate per
				)1,000 Total
				)Births 21.3
Deaths.....	198	96	102	Death Rate 12.64

(England & Wales Birth Rate.. 16.5 Death Rate.. 12.1

W. Sussex Urban Districts Birth Rate 16.87 Death Rate 16.80)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
Puerperal Sepsis.....	0	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes.....	0	0.00

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 Live Births.....14.23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births.16.15
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births.0

There were 4 legitimate, but no illegitimate, deaths under one year.
(Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales..... 49).

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 50

Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 0

Deaths from Whooping-Cough (all ages).. 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... 0

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease..... 67

Cancer..... 50

Cerebral Haemorrhage..... 12

Pneumonia..... 8

Tuberculosis (all forms)..... 4

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year:-

Scarlet Fever.....	52
Measles.....	272
Pneumonia.....	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	1
Erysipelas.....	1

It will be noted that no cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

The Council makes an annual grant to the local Nursing Association towards the cost of provision of nursing for Measles and Pneumonia.

T U B E R C U L O S I S.

The number of cases added to the Register during the year.. 20

Pulmonary Males...	1	Non-pulmonary Males...	8
Females...	5	Females...	6
	6		14

There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis; 3 Pulmonary (1 Male, 2 Female) and 1 Non-Pulmonary (Male).

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the 31st December, 1943 was 116.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This campaign was continued throughout the year under review, sessions being held periodically at the Health Centre. In addition, clinics were held at the M. & C.W. Centre in Leechpool Lane, as it was found that a better response resulted in the Roffey area when provision was made locally.

A not inconsiderable number of children received treatment privately, from their family practitioners. As it is not always possible to obtain details of all these cases, it is difficult to make an accurate estimate of the percentage of children who have been protected.

Regular returns are made to the Ministry of Health of the numbers of children who have been inoculated during each six-monthly period. It was estimated that on the 31st December, 1943, 60% of children below the age of 5 years, and 80% of those between 5 and 15, had been immunized. The satisfactory figure reached in 1942 was thus maintained.

Only by continued effort, including the use of the new "greeting cards" sent on a child's first birthday and regular house-to-house visiting, will it be possible to maintain this high level. Close co-operation has continued, in this connection, between the local Health Department and the County Medical Services.

TREATMENT OF SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Full particulars were given, in the last Annual Report, of the arrangements made for the treatment of these conditions. Women and children are dealt with at Tan Cottage Sick Bay, and adult males receive treatment at the local Military Hospital. This scheme has worked satisfactorily during the year under review. A few patients, mainly symptomless contacts, have received home treatment.

The total number of patients and contacts treated during the year was 216, as compared with 176 in 1942, and they were dealt with as shown:-

(a) Tan Cottage Sick Bay:- 18 In-Patients.
180 Out-Patients.

see over.

(b) Base Hospital (male patients). 11.

(c) Home Treatment. 7.

It will thus be seen that there has been a rise, during the year, in the number of cases brought to the notice of the Department. This does not necessarily prove an increase in the local incidence of the disease, as the facilities provided by the Council have become better known to both practitioners and the public.

It will also be noted that there has been a considerable reduction in the number receiving In-Patient treatment. It has been found possible to effect this economy without any loss of efficiency in treatment.

There can be little doubt that if the general population were to practise the elementary precaution of regular ablution, scabies would become a much less serious problem.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Routine bacteriological work throughout the year was again referred to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Christs Hospital.

The total number of specimens was 820, made up as follows:-

	Nose & Throat Swabs.	Urine & Faeces.	Blood.	Sputum.
Jan. - March.	35	10	4	2
April - June.	180	16	-	4
July - Sept.	54	17	7	2
Oct. - Dec.	184	4	-	-

	Waters.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.
Jan. - March.	34	16	101
April - June.	36	28	264
July - Sept.	68	29	177
Oct. - Dec.	71	19	278

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Accommodation for Infectious Disease.

There has been no change in the arrangements whereby patients are admitted to Swandean Isolation Hospital, Worthing. By agreement with the Corporation of the Borough of Worthing, five beds are reserved for cases from the Horsham Urban District.

The following cases of infectious disease were admitted during the period ending 31st December, 1943:-

Scarlet Fever.....	32
Diphtheria (not confirmed)...	1

In addition, one case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) was admitted direct to the Stanmore Branch of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1). TUBERCULOSIS.

There is no change from the previous year with regard to the treatment of tuberculosis. Cases are admitted either to Aldingbourne House (accommodation 70 persons) or to a ward at Worthing Isolation Hospital, Swandean (accommodation 12 beds), whilst surgical cases are admitted to St. Richards Hospital, Chichester, to the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, now at Bracknell in Berks, or to the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, Hants (for children).

(2). MATERNITY.

The County Council arranged for resident and evacuated expectant mothers to be admitted to:-

(a). Brighton Hospital for Women.
(b). Southlands Hospital, Shoreham.
(c). Worthing Hospital Maternity Home.
(d). Improvised Maternity Homes at Haslemere, Hindhead and Woking.

(3). SMALLPOX.

The County Council's reservation of two beds in the Brighton Small-Pox Hospital at Fulking remains unchanged.

(4). VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the County Scheme, regular Clinics are held at Worthing and Portsmouth.

During the year, additional facilities have been made available locally both to male and female patients. Drs. Morgan and De Lacey now carry out this work, in their normal surgery hours, on behalf of the County Council, under the new "General Practitioner Scheme."

(5). GENERAL.

St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, administered by the Public Health Committee of the County Council, takes cases from the area not considered suitable for admission to the General Hospital.

HOSPITALS NOT SUBSIDISED BUT AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT.

Horsham General Hospital.

The accommodation at this hospital having been extended, under the Emergency Medical Services, at the outbreak of war, 49 beds are provided. In addition, 34 additional E.M.S. beds are available at the Holbrook Park Annexe.

During the last five years, the Hospital has been fortunate in obtaining the services of a number of eminent consultants (in general medicine and surgery and the various specialities), the majority of whom are on the Honorary Medical Staff of the larger London hospitals. This has, of course, proved of great benefit to the local population, many of whom would have been obliged to travel to London for further advice.

The Hon. Consulting Staff hold regular Out-Patient sessions, and, by agreement with the County Council, the Health Centre adjoining has been placed at the disposal of the Hospital for use as an Out-Patient Department, when not in use for County work.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a). The Morris Ambulance, jointly owned by the Urban and Rural District Councils, and used for the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases, was purchased in 1927. Although maintained in fairly good running order, the vehicle is rather out of date.

Ambulance Facilities (Cont).

The Caretaker to the Council Offices acts as attendant for this ambulance. It is therefore necessary on occasions to arrange for the Swandean Hospital Ambulance, with a nurse in attendance, to collect cases where the patient is a woman, or a child acutely ill.

(b). For the collection and transfer of cases of non-infectious sickness and accident, the Horsham Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade maintains a vehicle at their Headquarters in Park Street, a resident driver being employed. The duties of attendant are undertaken by the Nursing Division of the Brigade. No grant is made by the Council in connection with this work.

CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Health Centre in Hurst Road, adjoining the Horsham General Hospital, is under the control of the County Education Committee. Special sessions are held for Minor Ailments, Vision Testing, Diphtheria Immunisation, and the treatment of Orthopaedic Defects, and a School Dental Surgeon is in attendance.

In addition Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics are held in the building, and there is a weekly Tuberculosis Dispensary. As mentioned previously, the Clinic premises at present serve as an Out-Patient Department of Horsham Hospital.

There is in addition a small Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Leechpool Lane, Roffey, where Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics are held.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

I am indebted to Mr. C. G. Atkinson, F.S.I. etc., the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer, for the following note:-

"Owing to a falling off in the yield at the Whites Bridge Pumping Station, the supply was augmented by putting into operation the pumping plant recently fixed at the old Town Well, Stanley Street for emergency purposes. Pumping from this source in service was commenced on July 18th and depending upon the storage in hand, is carried out two or three days each week. Up to the end of the year 3,557,600 gallons were put into the mains from this well after being chlorinated.

In October a new 4" main was put in at the west end of Guildford Road linking up with the Horsham Rural District supply from which water has since been taken, and the supply via Rusper Road has been discontinued."

Regular sampling of the Town's Main Supply was continued, samples being sent to the Christ's Hospital Laboratory for a short bacteriological examination each week, and further samples each month to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for full clinical and bacteriological examination.

All reports showed that the Town supply was of a high standard of bacterial purity. Some trouble was experienced, however, in the Guildford Road area following the installation of the new main linking with the R.D.C.'s supply. A number of samples showed the presence of B. Coli (of non-faecal type) over a period of some weeks. As the result of frequent and careful sampling, the trouble was finally traced and the matter rectified. A number of complaints were at first received, from residents in this part of the town, on account of the higher degree of hardness of water from the Chanctonbury wells.

The reports on the clinical analyses of water from the Whites Bridge Well have been satisfactory throughout the year, although on several occasions Dr. Suckling has commented upon the slight turbidity due to the presence of small amounts of iron and manganese. Doubtless the Council will consider the installation, when circumstances permit, of a more complete treatment plant at the Whites Bridge Station.

Water (Cont).

In July, 1943, it was found that the field to the south of the Pumping Station had been heavily manured by the tenant farmer, and the possibility of contamination of the well from this source was considered. The Regional Water Engineer of the Ministry of Health was consulted, but he agreed that no action was possible, except by unofficial approach to the farmer, in view of the fact that no Order exists for the control of this land.

Drainage and Sewage.

No new drainage work was carried out during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of Notices served under the Public Health Act:	
1. Informal	292
2. Statutory	28
Number of Notices complied with:	
1. Informal	248
2. Statutory	16

Inspections, etc.

Complaints received, including dustbin complaints	463
Miscellaneous Inspections	747
Re-inspections...	1083
Factories:	
Number on Register	62
Bakehouses:	
Number on Register	15
Basement Bakehouses	1
Inspections	14

Bakehouses (Cont).

Number of defects found	4
Number of defects remedied	2

Laundries.

Inspections....	-

Other Factories.

Inspections....	32
Number of defects found	2
Number of defects remedied	1

Movable Dwellings.

Inspections....	10

Marine Stores.

Inspections....	-

Fried Fish Shops.

Inspections....	16

Public House Conveniences.

Inspections....	20

Common Lodging House.

Inspections....	5

Infectious Disease.

Visits of Enquiry into Infectious Disease	111
Rooms disinfected	41
Books disinfected	253

Drainage, etc.

Drains tested..	46
Drains relaid..	19

Drainage, etc. (Cont).

New Drains laid	8
Privies converted to pail closets	0
Privies converted to water closets	0
Soil drains disconnected from rain water system	1
Premises connected to main drainage....	0
Dustbins Provided.	166

Water.

Number of samples taken from Wells	2
Number of samples condemned....	1
Number of samples taken from Town's supply	172

Female Domestic Servants' Registries.

Number registered	3
Number of inspections..	4

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Number of Premises visited	52
Total number of visits.	406
Number of gas rockets used	9
Number of baits put down	2690
Number of Premises at which structural work was done....	10
Number of dead rats found at premises after treatment...	34

Shops.

Number of shops inspected	22
Number of visits paid...	30

Shops (Cont).

Absence of W.C.	0
W.C.'s provided	0
Absence of wash hand basin...	0
Wash hand basin provided	0
Insufficient heating.	1
Heating supplied	2
Insufficient lighting	0
Lighting provided....	0
Insufficient ventilation	0
Ventilation provided.	0
Certificates of exemption granted....	0
Certificates of exemption revoked....	1
Miscellaneous defects found..	4
Miscellaneous defects remedied	7
Number of preliminary notices served.	3
Number of preliminary notices complied with..	6
Number of statutory notices served...	-
Number of statutory notices complied with....	-

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of visits in connection with vermin...	28
Number of Council houses infested with bed bugs	10
Number of private houses infested with bed bugs	6
Number of Council houses disinfested.	10
Number of private houses disinfested.	6

Housing.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1). a. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 297

b. Number of inspections made for the purpose... 632

(2). a. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 14

b. Number of inspections made for the purpose... 32

(3). Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... -

(4). Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 296

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 273

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a). Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 6

(2). Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices:-

a. By Owners.... 5

b. By Local Authority in default of Owners 3

Housing (Cont).

(b). Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:-

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 17

(2). Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

a. By Owners.... 10

b. By Local Authority in default of Owners 8

(c). Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1). Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(2). Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

(3). Number of dwelling houses demolished under Clearance Orders.. 0

(4). Number of dwelling houses demolished under Clearance Schemes. 0

(d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.. 0

(2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.... 0

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

(a). (1). Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 8

(2). Number of families dwelling therein 8

(3). Number of persons dwelling therein 41

4. (Cont).

(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 4

(c). (1). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(2). Number of persons concerned in such cases 10

(d). Number of formal notices to abate overcrowding served.. 0

(e). Number of notices complied with 0

Government Evacuation Scheme.

263 visits in connection with billeting, damaged bedding, cleanliness etc., were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors (the Senior Sanitary Inspector being the Chief Billeting Officer).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1). Milk Supply.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Visits of inspection. 90

Number registered.... 27

There are ten Dairy Farms in the district, and thirty visits were paid to these.

Of the number of Retailers registered, four are for sterilised milk and two from outside the district.

Wholesale:-

a. Tuberculin Tested. 0

b. Accredited 5

c. Pasteurised 0

d. Others.... 4

Inspection & Supervision of Food (Cont).

Retail:-

a. Tuberculin Tested...	1
b. Accredited..	1
c. Pasteurised.	2
d. Others	9
e. (Pasteurised) Tuberculin Tested	1

Milk Samples.

No. of Samples.	Up to Standard.	Below Standard.
67	30	37
	(44.8%)	(55.2%)

Failed Owing To:

Bact.	Bact.Meth.Blue.	B.Coli.	B.Coli.Bact.& Meth.Blue.
13	7	5	11
(19.4%)	(10.44%)	(7.46%)	(16.41%)

B.Coli.Meth.Blue.

1

(1.49%)

Number of Notices served under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:-

(a). Statutory.	0
(b). Informal..	3

Number of Notices complied with:-

(a). Statutory.	0
(b). Informal..	3

(2). Meat and Other Foods.

* Slaughterhouses.	Total	8
	Number registered....	-
	Number licensed	8
	Inspections..	378
	Defects found	-
	Defects remedied	-
Butchers' Shops.	Inspections..	31
Markets.	Total	3
	Inspections..	2

* All Slaughterhouses, except the Ministry of Food Central Slaughterhouse, are out of use for the Duration.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

15 renewals of licences were granted under the above Act.

Carcases inspected and details of meat condemned.

Total number of carcases examined:- 8,917.

	Cattle excluding Cows & Bulls.	Cows.	Bulls.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected	1,166	812	150	1,586	4,524	679
All diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcases condemned.	4	4	0	11	15	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	94	156	8	10	278	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	8.4%	19.7%	5.3%	1.3%	6.5%	5.0%
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcases condemned.	15	43	0	2	0	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	153	422	58	8	0	37
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	14.4%	57.3%	38.7%	0.6%	0	5.9%

Weight of meat condemned:- 30 tons. 4 cwts. 49 lbs.

Other Foods Condemned: Total Weight 1 ton. 11 cwts. 103 lbs.

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MGC.
6.10.44